



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
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BILL HASLAM  
Governor

RAQUEL HATTER, MSW, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

TCDHH COUNCIL MEETING  
League for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
Friday, February 25, 2011

Members Present: Thom Roberts, Lordy Smith, Summer Chappell, Dana Hughes (Chair), Paulette Melton (Vice-Chair), Lygia Williams, Kim Dance, and Deborah Harris

Members Not Present: Andrea Cooper, Margie Ulrich, Michael Friedman, Terry Smith, and Alan Mealka

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## Call to Order

At approximately 9:16 a.m. the meeting was called to order.

## Review of Minutes

The Council members were asked if they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Being confirmed, the Council was then asked to approve these minutes. If approved, minutes stand as the official record of the previous meeting on November 5, 2010.

- ✓ Individual Action: Motion made by Paulette Melton and seconded by Lordy Smith for the minutes to stand as the official record of the previous meeting on November 5, 2010.
- ✓ Member Action: The Council voted verbally with all ayes, no nays.  
**Motion Carried.**

## **Announcement**

### **Sandy Cohen**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Deaf Career Day will be held Thursday, March 3, 2011 at the Library, from 9:30 – 1:00. We will be focusing on transitioning from school to work. One hundred twenty individuals have already signed up. There will be a group of 8<sup>th</sup> graders from Tennessee School for the Deaf and a couple of other groups from Kentucky will also be attending.

## **DRS Report**

### **Lana Newton**

We now have a new TODB chapter in Chattanooga. They will be helping recruit SSP's for people who are blind.

The Statewide TODB meeting is coming up and we will soon be an affiliate member of TAD.

## **Council Member Reports**

- **Lygia Williams** –
  - With the new administration there may be budget cuts. Hopefully our main core services will continue.
  - We will be going over our department flyer with the new Commission of Mental Health.
  - I serve on the Department of Health's Injury Prevention Board. I would like to have any information you have regarding injury prevention for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing to include in their planning.
  - In order to have information for applying for grants we need to compile data of mental health services provided to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Please forward any information you might have to Lygia Williams.
  - EAP Fair will be in April this year. Let Lygia know if the Deaf and Hard of Hearing would like to participate and have a table.
- **Kim Dance** -
  - Sharon Bryant and I will meet with the Commissioner of Mental Health to discuss a statewide mental health program for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.
  - Sharon Bryant and I will also be attending the Disability Day to discuss mental health services with some of the Senators.
  - TAD will host the Tennessee Leadership Training Conference in April.
- **Summer Chappell** –
  - We have been working on the TRID by-laws and will be voting on them in June at the statewide meeting in Knoxville.
  - We've had two changes in leadership on the boards. I will bring the updated information to the next meeting.
- **Lordy Smith** –
  - Several members attended the black history program at the Mississippi Boulevard Christian Church.
  - I attended the Black Deaf Advocate Christmas Dinner and several monthly workshops for interpreters at Deaf Connect.

- We are making plans to attend the National Black Deaf Advocates, Inc. conference in North Carolina in July.
- **Dana Hughes** –
  - Thom Roberts and I completed six Town Hall Meetings. After listening to the concerns of each community, these issues will be delegated to the appropriate committee chairpersons.
  - My term ends in March; however, I have accepted the nomination to continue on as a council member and hope to be able to serve the Deaf and Hard of Hearing another three years.
- **Paulette Melton** –
  - Nothing to report.
- **Deborah Harris** –
  - The school board is surrendering their charter and will become one school district with Shelby County if passed in the vote on March 8, 2011.

## Executive Director's Report

### November

- 6      **Statewide Workshop for Teachers, Parents, and other Professionals Service Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children – Held at TN School for the Blind**
- 9-10   **PEPNet Conference in Charlotte, NC – Collaboration with others regarding transitional services and supports for high school students**
- 13     **Hearing Loss Association of America Nashville Chapter Meeting**
- 15-17   **Rehabilitation Counselors for the Deaf Training at TRC – Smyrna**
- 20     **Town Hall Meeting in Knoxville**

### December

- 9-11   **Toured through apartments designed for those who are deaf and hard of hearing in Nashville**
- 17     **TRC – Smyrna Graduation**

### January

- 13     **Attended the Silent Dinner in Cool Springs**
- 14     **Met with the SERID 2012 Planning Committee in Chattanooga**
- 27     **Bridges Center visit with Sallie Hussey**
- 28     **Deaf Connect of the Mid-South Center visit with Teresa Wilson**
- 29     **Town Hall Meeting in Jackson**

### February

- 9       **TN Suicide Prevention Network (TSPN) Advisory Council – Serves as Chair of the Tennessee State Intra-Departmental Subcommittee**

**Other activities include, but not limited to, providing assistance in obtaining hearing aids, providing advocacy, and serving on the Deaf Career Day Planning Committee. I also have attended the EARS Advisory Committee and TSPN Regional Committee meetings.**

## Center Director Reports

- **CCDHH – Jessica Harrison** -
  - DLAC continues to offer services thru CCDHH on a monthly basis. Meetings can be conducted in person or by video phone.
  - CCDHH has hosted several in-service trainings this month, including training at some medical facilities, law enforcement and a local college.
- **KCD – Bob Rittenhouse** -
  - Executive Director, Bob Rittenhouse will retire on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Bob has been with KCD for nine years.
  - The KCD-University of Tennessee Hospital Project was continued for another three years. KCD also received a two-year grant award from Regal Entertainment to support the Youth Leadership Program.
- **JCIL – Amy Cone** –
  - JCIL hosted several meetings during the winter months, along with several holiday functions. One of which was the Christmas celebration at WTSA with Daniel Cone as Deaf Santa. The children were thrilled to see Santa sign.
  - We hosted the TAD Board meeting and the Town Hall meeting in January. Several attended and there was great participation.
- **Bridges – Sallie Hussey**-
  - We received a \$25,000 grant from the Cal Turner Family Foundation to start a program in our youth program to improve reading and writing skills.
  - Thanks to the HEAR Nashville consortium, we can now give out free hearing aids to low income seniors. The grant is only for \$30,000 which means funds have been used quickly.
  - We are still in the process of evaluating our programs to ensure the needs of the community are being met.
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Well Fest will be in April.
- **Deaf Connect – Teresa Wilson** -
  - Deaf Connect is in the process of updating their office procedures.
  - We've had several workshops and are working on awareness and collaboration in the community.

## Committee Reports

- **Communication Committee**, Summer Chappell –
  - Janet Bailey is the new government affairs representative at RID and I will be working with her soon regarding licensure for interpreters.
  - I would like to see some quality assurance being done until the licensure goes through. Several people have expressed an interest in forming a committee and we will proceed with that.
- **Legislative Committee**, Kim Dance – as reported above.
- **Education Committee**, Deborah Harris –
  - We are currently working with the Deaf Family Literacy Academy, a non-profit agency, to improve reading skills for children up to 12 years old.
- **Social Welfare**, Lygia Williams – no report.

## **Old Business/New Business**

- **New:**
  - Deaf Expo will be in Chattanooga on March 10, at the Brainard Methodist Church.
- **Old:**
  - The introduction to the deaf community brochure has been developed and is awaiting approval for printing.
  - Nominations for our council members whose terms are ending in April were submitted to the Governor. We should hear something back shortly.
  - Council meetings are set for the following dates:
    - May 20, 2011
    - August 12, 2011
    - November 4, 2011

## **Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman, Dana Hughes at 12:07 P.M.